Cost of modifying the electrical box

Overview

Electrical box quotes feel unpredictable when the scope is unclear, and hidden service work can increase the bill fast.

Key Takeaways

The cost to modify an electrical box typically ranges from $120 to $1,600 depending on box type, labor, wiring complexity, and additional safety features.Basic Replacement Costs

For a standard single-gang plastic box replacement with minimal wiring changes, the total cost usually falls between $120 and $180, including the box and about one hour of labor . A metal box or one requiring a simple wiring run or GFCI installation can increase costs to $350–$600 . Labor rates commonly range from $60 to $150 per hour, and most residential replacements take 1–4 hours .

Mid-Range and Extensive Modifications

If the modification involves rewiring, conduit relocation, or adding safety features like AFCI or GFCI protection, costs can rise significantly. For example, remodeling a box in a professional setting with mid-range materials typically starts at $1,305–$1,581 per box . Outdoor or hard-to-access boxes, or those requiring weatherproofing, can cost $500–$1,200 .

Factors Affecting Price
• Box Type and Material: Plastic is cheaper than metal; larger boxes for multiwire circuits cost more .

• Accessibility: In-wall, behind appliances, or outdoor boxes require more labor .

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• Wiring Complexity: Re-running wires or upgrading circuits increases labor and material costs .

• Permits and Inspections: Local codes may require permits, adding extra fees .

• Safety Features: Installing AFCI or GFCI outlets adds both device and labor costs .

• Regional Labor Rates: Urban areas tend to have higher labor and permit costs than rural areas .
Summary
• Basic swap: $120–$180

• Mid-range modification: $350–$600

• Professional remodel or complex upgrade: $1,305–$1,581

• Outdoor/weatherproof or extensive rewiring: $500–$1,200 For the most accurate estimate, it is recommended to contact a licensed electrician who can assess your specific situation, including box type, wiring condition, and local code requirements.

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